weather. The lonely piping of a pair of Golden Plovers did little to cheer things up.

Almost as soon as we arrived at the summit a snow storm engulfed us. Visibility was zero, but I do not think any snow fell — it was passing us horizontally! As soon as it stopped, Tony went off over the plateau, whilst the rest of us huddled in the jeep. Just before another snow flurry arrived he rejoined us with two *melanopa*! He had got down on his hands and knees and searched the rocks and the crowberry and had spotted the two moths sheltering in the herbage. So heartened were we that, as soon as the clouds lifted, we strode the plateau, nets at the ready. In the few sunny spells that followed each snow flurry, between us we caught another ten *melanopa*. They did not fly anywhere near as fast as I had noted in a previous year in continuous, hot sunshine.

Margaret Forder performed what may well be an unique feat. She carried a net in one hand and a bunch of bearberry, which she had picked the evening before, in the other. As she walked, a *melanopa* landed on the bunch of flowers. I asked her what she did. She said "No problem; I just popped the bunch, with the moth, into my net and so caught my first, and probably my last, *melanopa*". To anyone who has hunted *melanopa* in continuous, hot sunshine, and seen the speed of its flight, this account may seem remarkable. Of further interest regarding the flight of *melanopa*; a communication by B.K. West (*Ent. Rec.* **101**: 172) describes the flight pattern in strong wind. But the capture of two *melanopa* sheltering from the wind by Tony Pickles is another matter, and says much for both his eyesight and his optimism; and, of course, for the plenitude of the moth.

Delayed emergence in *Chloroclystis v-ata* Haworth (V-pug) (Lep.: Geometeridae).

In southern Britain *Chloroclystis v-ata* usually flies between May and August in two broods, though this species has been caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps from April to September. In northern Britain the species is univoltine, flying in June and July. The larvae are polyphagous on the flowers of a wide variety of plants and overwintering takes place in the pupal stage (Skinner, B. (1984) *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Harmondsworth).

In late August 1988 six larvae of this species were collected by the author from goldenrod flowers at Aberporth, Dyfed. By the end of September all had pupated. By the end of October the adult wing markings could be seen through the pupal cases of four of the pupae, and the emergence of a partial third brood seemed imminent. However, all six overwintered and hatched during May of the following year. The wing markings of the two pupae which were not fully developed the previous autumn were evident a few days before emergence, as is usually the case.

The reasons for the apparently fully-developed adults overwintering

inside the pupal skin are not known and their ability to do so seems remarkable. I have not heard of this behaviour in any other species and would welcome comments. Thanks are extended to Gwynn Williams of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Aberporth for permission to collect larvae at the site. — ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Institute Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

Notes on Orthoptera from Jersey, Channel Islands

Although all these species are well known from the dunes around St Ouen's Bay, Jersey (Marshall & Haes, 1988 *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*), I nevertheless feel it is worth placing on record (somewhat belatedly!) that the late Roderick Dobson sent me a collection of live Orthoptera from this area which he collected on 31st August 1964. The species included were the Grey Bush-cricket *Platycleis albopunctata jerseyana* Zeuner, Jersey Grasshopper *Euchorthippus pulvinatus elegantulus,* Zeuner, Heath Grasshopper *Chorthippus vagans* (Eversmann), Field Grasshopper *C. brunneus* (Thunberg) and Blue-winged Grasshopper *Oedipoda caerulescens* (L.). All were described by Mr Dobson as being numerous on the dunes.

I kept them alive in cages at Broadcasting House in Bristol for observation and, with the exception of *D. caerulescens,* to make tape recordings of their stridulations. — J.F. BURTON, Wasserturmstr. 53, D-6904 Eppelheim, Heidelberg, West Germany.

Hazards of butterfly collecting, Tsavo — May 1988

May 1988 saw me in the Tsavo National Park of Kenya as part of my preparations for writing a book on the Butterflies of Kenya. Getting good colour slides of at least a quarter of all the Kenyan species was high on my list of priorities. In savannah areas, butterfly photography is almost impossible except in the early morning or in the afternoon as butterflies begin to bed down. During the day, they are much too lively and even when feeding often spend but a second or two at each nectar source. There in an additional advantage to early morning and late afternoon photography in that many specimens will be sunning themselves with the wings open, and it may be possible to capture the range of beautiful colours in the African orange tips of the genus *Colotis*.

Towards four o'clock I found an ideal spot, a valley with tall acacia trees and profuse, yet accessible undergrowth with lots of flowers. Butterflies were obviously beginning to assemble for a very dense night roost. Communal roosting among butterflies is not unusual, sometimes simply because a given place is very suited, sometimes because of a genuine mutual attraction, the reasons for which have not been fully puzzled out. There were almost thirty species preparing to bed down for the night. Four or five